**High School Students Use Cell Phones in Class—but not for Schoolwork, Says Study**

By [Lauren Barack](http://www.thedigitalshift.com/author/lbarack/) on January 7, 2013 [6 Comments](http://www.thedigitalshift.com/2013/01/k-12/high-school-students-use-cell-phones-in-class-but-not-for-schoolwork-says-study/#comments)

**FROM**   
[http://www.thedigitalshift.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/05/SLJ_logo-114.gif](http://slj.com/)

Just as many high school teachers are becoming comfortable with incorporating smartphones and other digital devices into classrooms to aid with learning, a new study finds that a majority of high school *students* are already using cell phones in class—to text, send emails, and browse social media sites.

The [study](http://newmedia-eng.haifa.ac.il/?p=6319), from researchers at the University of Haifa in Israel, focuses on 9–12th grade students at three different high schools. Out of the 591 students surveyed, a whopping 95 percent said they regularly sent emails or texts during classroom lessons, while 94 percent said they browsed file-sharing sites or social media sites like Facebook. Listening to music is another popular classroom activity, according to 93 percent of students, while 91 percent admitted to actually talking on their phones during class. Overall, 60 percent of students use their cell phones in –class, with 10th graders the most aggressive cell phone users and 12th graders picking up their phones the least, according to the survey.

This may present a sobering reality check to many educators in K–12 schools who have been looking for the best ways to incorporate digital tools into their classrooms. Already the number of Web-connected computers per student is increasing rapidly across the country. In 2000, the ratio of students to each Internet-connected computer was 6.6 kids per every device, according to the National Center for Education Statistics (<http://nces.ed.gov/programs/digest/d11/tables/dt11_109.asp>); by 2008 (the latest year for which complete statistics are available), that number had jumped to 3.1 kids per device.

Successful school programs utilize digital devices in ways that keep kids engaged, such as [conducting polls during civics lessons](http://www.schoollibraryjournal.com/slj/printissuecurrentissue/889155-427/omg_texting_in_class_sms.html.csp) or [searching for materials on a school library site](http://www.schoollibraryjournal.com/slj/printissue/currentissue/891632-427/ready_to_go_mobile_its.html.csp). But in practice, there can be a big difference between the efficacy of using school-issued laptops and tablets compared with students’ own devices, at least among the older grades, according to the study.

With personal devices, students have more control over their own tools—and the ability to hide their online activities, particularly on phones with small screens.

“Students use their mobile phones in various ways—to surf the Internet and access social media, to listen to music, take photos, play games, and send text messages and photos,” say the researchers. “Based on our findings, there is almost no moment during any class when some pupil isn’t using their cell phone.”

# Cell Phone Use In Schools A Possibility With 'Bring Your Own Technology' Initiative

**Northeast Mississippi Daily Journal, Tupelo**  |  By Chris KiefferPosted: 11/12/2012 2:28 pm EST  |  Updated: 11/14/2012 4:57 pm EST (c)2012 the Northeast Mississippi Daily Journal (Tupelo, Miss.)

It may not be long until it becomes common to hear teachers start a lesson by asking students to pull out their cellphones.

As schools try to add more technology during a time when they are receiving less funding, many will begin to consider allowing students to use devices they already own. That will include cellphones and electronic tablets like iPads.

"Why do you keep buying technology when people have in their pocket phones that are more powerful than computers used to be?" said Tupelo Superintendent Gearl Loden.

The idea of the Bring Your Own Technology initiative is beginning to be used by schools across the country as a way they can save money by only buying devices for those who don't already own them. Cellphones and tablets can be used for research, interaction and storing digital textbooks, among other things.

"If school districts are not looking at things like that, they are going to fall behind," said New Albany Superintendent Jackie Ford.

Some Northeast Mississippi school districts, such as New Albany and Tupelo, currently have policies that generally ban students from using their cellphones on campus but allow for exceptions when teachers want to use them for educational purposes. It may be a model that others eventually follow.

Pontotoc City Superintendent Karen Tutor said her district, which does not currently allow student cellphone use, has had conversations for the past year about possible changes. The key, she said, is finding the proper rules and procedures to govern their use.

"We haven't made policy changes yet, but yes, I do expect it to come," she said.

So does Booneville Superintendent Todd English, who noted that technology requirements in the new Common Core curriculum will force school districts to make changes.

Lee County Superintendent Jimmy Weeks said he can see both the benefits and dangers of students using cellphones at school. And while the district does not have immediate plans to allow their use in classrooms, he wouldn't be surprised if that eventually changes.

"Twenty years from now, students may not believe that there was once a day when they couldn't use cellphones in school," he said.

# *from* 53 Facts About Teen Mobile Usage Every Higher Education Person Should Know

Posted on [**February 2, 2012**](http://www.twgplus.com/blog/2012/02/02/53-facts-about-teen-mobile-usage-every-higher-education-person-should-know/) by [**Talmadge Boyd**](http://www.twgplus.com/blog/author/talboyd/)

In April 2010, [Pew Internet released the results of their survey of 800 teens and their parents about mobile phone usage](http://www.pewinternet.org/Reports/2010/Teens-and-Mobile-Phones/Summary-of-findings.aspx). What follows are 53 of the most interesting facts from the study.

**How Teens Use Phones At School**

12% of all students say they can have their phone at school at any time.  
62% of all students say they can have their phone in school, just not in class.  
24% of teens attend schools that ban all cell phones from school grounds.   
Still, 65% of cell-owning teens at schools that completely ban phones bring their phones to school every day.  
58% of cell-owning teens at schools that ban phones have sent a text message during class.  
43% of all teens who take their phones to school say they text in class at least once a day or more.  
64% of teens with cell phones have texted in class; 25% have made or received a call during class time.

**How Parents and Teens Perceive Cell Phones**

98% of parents of cell-owning teens say a major reason their child has the phone is that they can be in touch no matter where the teen is.

94% of parents and 93% of teens ages 12-17 with cell phones agreed with the statement: “I feel safer because I can always use my cell phone to get help.” Girls and mothers especially appreciate the safety aspects of cell ownership.

94% of cell users ages 12-17 agree that cell phones give them more freedom because they can reach their parents no matter where they are.

48% of cell-owning teens get irritated when a call or a text message interrupts what they are doing, compared with 38% of the cell-owning parents.

69% of cell-owning teens say their phone helps them entertain themselves when they are bored.

26% have been bullied or harassed through text messages and phone calls.

**How Teens Use Their Phones Outside Of Texting**

83% use their phones to take pictures.   
64% share pictures with others.  
60% play music on their phones.  
46% play games on their phones.  
32% exchange videos on their phones.  
31% exchange instant messages on their phones.  
27% go online for general purposes on their phones.  
23% access social network sites on their phones.  
21% use email on their phones.  
11% purchase things via their phones.

[71% of teens own a cell phone]